

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. By this amendment, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0172109 (Fujita). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Fujita. Claims 3 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Fujita in view of Japanese Patent Application No. 08-249695 (JP '695). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an optical pickup device having a light source, an objective lens, a lens holding body, a support body, and an optical base. The lens holding body holds the objective lens. The support body supports the lens holding body such that the lens holding body is movable in at least one of a focusing direction and a tracking direction, with respect to the support body. The optical base holds the support body such that the support body is rotatable, *with respect to the optical base*, around a rotation axis perpendicular to the focusing and tracking directions.

The Office Action takes the position that Claim 1 recited that the support body was rotatable, but did not specifically recite that the support body was rotatable with respect to the optical base. Consequently, it appears that the Examiner did not deem the previous patentability arguments persuasive in the absence of a more specific recitation of this feature. Thus, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to clarify that the support

body is rotatable with respect to the optical base around a rotation axis perpendicular to the focusing and tracking directions. This provides for a smaller and thinner optical pickup device with easier tilt control.

Fujita is directed to a lens actuator used in combination with an optical disc. As discussed in the previous amendment, the system described Fujita includes a lens holder 102 rotatable with respect to a base plate 101. Support structure 104, which supports lens holder 102, is not rotatable with respect to base plate 101. Instead, Fujita states that supporting structure 104 is fixed to base plate 101.

JP'695 is directed to a tilt coordination mechanism. That document describes a tilt function in which the entire optical pickup device is tilted. Such a mechanism is clearly distinguishable from a pickup device in which a support body is rotatable with respect to an optical base holding a light source. Consequently, Applicant submits that this document fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Fujita.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Fujita and JP'695, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a support body for supporting a lens holding body so that the lens holding body is movable in at least one of a focusing direction and a tracking direction of an objective lens with respect to the support body, and an optical base which holds the light source and the support body so that the support body is rotatable, with respect to the optical base, around a rotation axis perpendicular to the focusing direction and the tracking direction, as recited in independent Claim 1.


Applicant submits that the dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, and further submits that the

dependent claims should be considered independently in view of the features recited therein which further distinguish them from the applied documents.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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